REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 35, 39, 43 and 47 after entry of the preceding amendments is respectfully requested. The Advisory Action indicated that the phrase "target RNA" remained in the rejected claims. Accordingly, claims 35, 43 and 47 are presently amended. No change to the text of claim 39 is needed, as that claim merely depends from rejected claim 35 and does not in and of itself recite "target (viral) RNA."

Allowance of all claims and action on the Request for Interference (for the reasons previously advanced by Applicant) are respectfully requested.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,					
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Attachment: Marked-Up Copy Amended Claim

Amended Claims: Version with markings to show changes made

35. (Thrice Amended) A reverse transcription reaction mixture for reverse transcribing a target ***viral*** mRNA suspected of being present in a biological sample, said reaction mixture comprising a predetermined initial amount of a control sequence cRNA, a target viral RNA, and a target-specific primer for initiating cDNA synthesis, wherein said primer can serve to initiate reverse transcription of a nucleic acid segment contained within said control sequence cRNA together with a segment contained within the particular target viral RNA, and wherein said control sequence is further distinguished by having a hybridization site identical in sequence to a hybridization site in said target viral RNA, whereby following reverse transcription the resulting target and control sequence cDNAs can serve as templates for amplification for providing control sequence and target amplified viral RNA segments which are distinguishable by size.

43. (Amended) The mixture of claim 35, wherein the target ***viral*** RNA is contained within a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a protein associated with HIV or HCMV.

47. (Thrice Amended) A reverse transcription reaction mixture for reverse transcribing a target ***viral*** mRNA suspected of being present in a biological sample, said reaction mixture comprising a predetermined initial amount of a control sequence cRNA, a target viral RNA, and a target-specific primer for initiating cDNA synthesis, wherein said primer can serve to initiate reverse transcription of a nucleic acid segment contained within said control sequence cRNA together with a segment contained within the particular target viral RNA, and wherein said control sequence is further distinguished by having a hybridization site identical in sequence to a hybridization site in said target viral RNA, whereby following reverse transcription the resulting target and control sequence cDNAs can serve as templates for amplification for providing control sequence and target amplified viral RNA segments which are distinguishable by size or by use of internal hybridization probes.